

# Consumer and Family Member Employment in Mental Health

Special Topic Workgroup

June 21, 2006

MHSA Workforce Education and  
Training

# Stakeholder Recommendations

Increase consumer and family member employment and employment supports at all levels of public mental health, with emphasis on entry level

- Fund and expand training programs such as Spirit, Pacific Clinics, Jump Start, Family to Family, Peer to Peer, UACC's EES
- Fund employment supports, such as financial planners/benefits coordinators, consumer operated employment support services

# Stakeholder Recommendations(2)

- Fund consumers/family members as providers of training/technical assistance/administrative support to county mental health programs and regional partnerships
- Fund consumers/family members as evaluators of service provision; such as BEST Technician Outcome Tracking Program
- Develop consumers/family members as leaders in public mental health

# CMHPC Recommendations

- Employment Partnership Training Series from DMH/DOR MH Cooperative Programs be made available to all counties and contract agencies
- Enable all counties to receive United Advocates for Children of California's EES training
- Consumers/family members be specified for inclusion in all MHSA funded stipends/loan forgiveness/scholarship programs
- Develop certificated and non-certificated training programs for consumers/family members to enter public mental health employment

# Workgroup Strategies

- Expand statewide contracts to CNMHC, NAMI, UACC, DMH/DOR Consultant Cadre, with focused development on promising work already being done in the areas of:
  - Providing career advancement, or pipeline strategies for consumer, family member designated positions
  - Civil service minimum qualifications to honor consumer, family member experience
  - Agency assessment of readiness
  - Essential elements of ongoing employment support
  - Preparation to run consumer/family member operated programs

# Workgroup Strategies(2)

- Convert consumer/family member training to distance learning formats
- Staff regional partnership structures with consumer/family members as admin support, benefits planners, outcome evaluators
- Expand functions of DMH expert pool and establish similar expert pools at regional levels for funding a range of public presentation activities
- Fund and replicate MH entry level preparation programs, such as SPIRIT, Pacific Clinics, Jump Start, Riverside family advocacy training

# Next Step

Workgroup to review proposed funding strategies – no next meeting scheduled